

To Whom it may concern,

I have been a commercial broadcaster for 25 years. That being said the telecommunications act of 1996 has done severe damage to commercial broadcasting industry. It is blatantly obvious this is the case and while Eddie Fritts "crows" about how the industry is thriving anyone who talks to a small market broadcaster who has been unfairly run out of town due to a competing multiple ownership will tell you otherwise.

Perhaps that satellite that Fritts dreams about striking his house will come true. Ever since deregulation corporations have forced broadcast property values to unbelievable and unrealistic levels to the point where it is impossible to pay the debt service. They continue to strip and rape the industry for short term gains. The auctioning of broadcast channels by the Federal Communications Commission has left the remaining channels to the wealthy and is downright unfair and criminal! The public is fed up, but because the NAB is such a large and corrupt lobby, Congress lines their pockets with the special interest money and dictates policy to the Federal Communications Commission.

Enter Satellite radio, a service that brings new choices and quite frankly life to broadcasting that has been lost to consolidation. Ever tune across the AM dial and listen to what a wasteland of bad audio and programming it has become? or the FM dial with the narrow-casted, consulted, over-modulated tripe that is being offered? It's no wonder the public (3 million strong and growing) are turning to Satellite Radio and what's more, they are willing to PAY FOR IT.

If commercial broadcasters truly felt they were providing quality programming in the "Public Interest" then they should have nothing to fear from Satellite Radio, but the fact is, stations have been turned over so many times like Pork Bellies on the stock market that there is little left. Many stations take satellite programming to begin with, therefore they have in essence become "terrestrial repeaters" for satellites. Compare this with XM or Sirius and what is the difference? Most of the programming on radio stations might as well be coming from the Moon.

The American public is angry and the NAB, in it's blatant arrogance refuses to acknowledge or admit to this. The NAB is the same organization that set out to squash Low Power FM. This in itself proves the arrogant, elitist attitude of the organization. Therefore, XM and Sirius have become the alternative similar to that of MP3, Webcasting and CD media.

I have worked for a local radio station for 21 years. We do not belong to the NAB. We do offer live, local programming 14 hours per day on our AM station and live programming on our FM station. Our community embraces us but we are the only one in our area who does this. When I am local I listen to us and when I travel outside of our coverage area I listen to Satellite radio and nothing else because in my travels terrestrial radio has little to offer and remember I am a broadcaster!

It does not matter if it is the telecommunications act of 1996 or Satellite Radio because in either case I have never seen a situation where the Genie ever went back into the bottle. Eddie Fritts sites unfair competition from XM and Sirius, yet it is the NAB who has lobbied for relaxation of the FCC ownership rules and have created unfair competition in the industry which in turn has created public back-lash. If Eddie Fritts wants to cry "foul" then all he needs to do is look no further than his own back-yard.

Let's face it, Satellite radio is growing for a reason and as for the NAB protesting; people in glass houses should not throw stones.